14. The multi-gear rear cassette according to claim 11, wherein an axially forward surface of the mounting portion and an axially forward surface of each space maintaining protrusion extend further axially forwardly than an axially forward surface of the chain engaging portion.

15. The multi-gear rear cassette according to claim 14, wherein the axially forward surface of the mounting portion extends further axially forwardly than the axially forward surface of each space maintaining protrusion.

16. A bicycle comprising a multi-gear rear cassette having a plurality of sprockets coaxially mounted to a freehub body, wherein the plurality of sprockets includes an axially rearmost sprocket, the axially rearmost sprocket comprising:

a chain engaging portion having a generally annular shape about a central axis, a radially outward edge of the chain engaging portion comprising a plurality of circumferentially spaced and radially outwardly extending teeth for mechanical engagement with a bicycle chain;

a mounting portion having a generally annular shape about the central axis, a radially inward edge of the mounting portion defining an aperture shaped to receive therein a freehub body and a radially outward edge of the mounting portion radially spaced apart from a radially inward edge of the chain engaging portion;

a plurality of support arms, integrally formed with the chain engaging portion and with the mounting portion, extending radially outwardly from the radially outward edge of the mounting portion to the radially inward edge of the chain engaging portion; and

a plurality of space maintaining protrusions, each space maintaining protrusion integrally formed with and extending axially forwardly from an axially forward surface of a corresponding support arm.

17. The bicycle according to claim 16, wherein each support arm comprises a radially inward arm portion and a plurality of radially outward arm portions, the radially inward arm portion extending radially outwardly from the radially outward edge of the mounting portion and the plurality of radially outward arm portions extending radially outwardly from a radially outward edge of the radially inward arm portion to the radially inward edge of the chain engaging portion.

18. The bicycle according to claim 17, wherein each space maintaining protrusion extends axially forwardly from an axially forward surface of a corresponding radially outward arm portion and is integrally formed therewith.

19. The bicycle according to claim 16, wherein an axially forward surface of the mounting portion and an axially forward surface of each space maintaining protrusion extend further axially forwardly than an axially forward surface of the chain engaging portion.

20. The bicycle according to claim 19, wherein the axially forward surface of the mounting portion extends further axially forwardly than the axially forward surface of each space maintaining protrusion.

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